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THE MUSICAL TIMES

AND

Singing Class Circular,

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MUSIC CONTAINED IN THE PREVIOUS NUMBERS OF THE "MUSICAL TIMES."

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|-------------------|
| No. 1—In these delightful pleasant groves | - | - | Purcell |
| 2—Hear my prayer, O Lord | - | - | Winter |
| 3—Soon as I careless stray'd | - | - | Festa |
| Hail! all hail! thou merry month of May | - | - | Weber |
| 4—Thou art gone to the grave | - | - | Beethoven |
| Hear what God the Lord | - | - | V. Novello |
| 5—Hail! smiling morn | - | - | Spofforth |
| 6—Let all men praise the Lord | - | - | Mendelssohn |
| Forgive, blest shade | - | - | Dr. Calcott |
| 7—Four rounds, for three voices | | | |
| 8—Call to remembrance | - | - | Farrant |
| 9—Pleasures of Innocence | - | - | From the German |
| Amidst the myrtles | - | - | Battishill |
| 10—Teach me, O Lord | - | - | Rogers |
| 11—Here in cool grot | - | - | Lord Mornington |
| 12—My God, look upon me | - | - | John Reynolds |
| 13—Oh, Nanny, wilt thou gang with me? | - | - | Carter & Harrison |
| 14—When winds breathe soft | - | - | Webbe |
| 15—Soldiers, brave and gallant be | - | - | Gastoldi |
| 16—All people that on earth | - | - | Tallis |
| 17—Sweet honey-sucking bees (1st Part) | - | - | Wilbye |
| 18—Vital Spark | - | - | Novello |
| 19—Sweet honey-sucking bees (2nd part) | - | - | Wilbye |
| 20—Now pray we for our Country | - | - | Eliza Flower |
| 21—Now the bright morning star | - | - | Greville |
| 22—Thine, O Lord, is the greatness | - | - | Kent |
| 23—Just like Love | - | - | Davy & Novello |
| 24—In Judah God is known | - | - | Mendelssohn |
| 25—Maidens fair of Padua's City | - | - | Gastoldi |

All communications of the progress of Singing Class Teaching, addressed to the Editor of the Musical Times, 69, Dean Street, Soho, or 24, Poultry, will be interesting.

THE HULLAH TESTIMONIAL FUND.

Most of our readers take so immediate an interest in the progress of the *Class Teaching of Singing*, that they have, doubtless, seen with

pleasure the announcements which have appeared from time to time of the Choral Meetings at Exeter Hall, to increase the Fund for the erection of a new Room. The fifth and last took place on the 24th June, long before the date of our paper, but our publishing arrangements require the matter to be ready too soon to enable us to give an account of the performance. We have thought it a very good opportunity to say a few words on the progress and present prospects of this important branch of the *Class Teaching*; and we have been kindly furnished by a friend with the following interesting facts, upon which reliance may be placed.

The first Singing Class on the system of Wilhelm, as introduced into this country by Mr. Hullah, was opened at Exeter Hall, in February, 1841. It consisted entirely of Schoolmasters. During the year, 300 Schoolmasters and 100 Schoolmistresses were taught.

At the close of 1841, in consequence of the numerous applications from persons not engaged in tuition, the Elementary Classes were thrown open to the Public, and an "Upper School" was also opened. The Upper School was designed to enable those who had gone through the course of lessons, to keep up and increase the knowledge thus acquired, by the practice of Choral Music of the best Masters.

During the year 1842, the numbers of the Upper Schools increased to upwards of 500, and 2246 persons entered the Elementary Classes. In this year the first "Choral Meeting" was held, consisting of upwards of 1500 singers, all being taught by Mr. Hullah, his assistants, or pupils.

In 1843, the Elementary Classes were attended

by 861 persons, and the Upper Schools by 1465. Up to the close of this year, the expenses of the Classes had been guaranteed by several distinguished friends of education. The payments of the pupils, and the profits of the Choral Meetings, had, however paid the expenses; but, with the exception of the First Class, Mr. Hullah did not receive anything whatever for the great time and labor bestowed by him; and, moreover, he paid the Gentlemen who assisted him as teachers. As the guarantee of the expenses was not renewed, Mr. Hullah determined to undertake the risk of continuing the instruction, and to bear the expenses. The first thing to be done was to decrease the expenses; and, with this view, the Classes were in October, 1843, removed from Exeter Hall (the rent and expenses of which formed an overwhelming item of expenditure) to the "Apollonicon Rooms" in St. Martin's Lane, and have since continued to be carried on there. The Upper Schools having been practising the works of Handel, Mendelssohn, &c. these premises, although very inconvenient in many respects, were the best that could be obtained, until some more suitable Building could be erected.

During the year 1844 the Elementary Classes were attended by 748 persons, and the Upper Schools by 1336.

The inconvenience of the Apollonicon Rooms has, in fact, been a great bar to the extension of the system, because there is not accommodation for a sufficient number of Classes to be opened at convenient hours at the best season of the year, and the numbers are necessarily restricted. Under these circumstances, it was determined to build a Music Hall for the especial use of the Classes; and at a General Meeting of the Upper Schools, held 2nd June, 1845, Mr. Hullah having previously stated this determination, a resolution was unanimously passed by the pupils, pledging themselves to use their best exertions to promote the object, and to raise a fund to be presented to Mr. Hullah as a Testimonial, but to be applied in aid of the building, to be called "The Hullah Testimonial Fund." A Committee was thereupon formed to carry this resolution into effect. It was conceived that such a Fund, and so to be applied, would be the most appropriate Testimonial they could offer as an acknowledgment

of long services hitherto almost wholly unremunerated.

At a General Meeting of the Upper Schools, held 27th November, 1845, it was resolved that a series of Choral Meetings, in aid of the Fund, should be held. Four of this series have already been held, and have proved highly successful; the fifth and last of this season is to be held on the 24th June, 1846. The subscriptions amount to upwards of £500, and the net profits of the four Choral Meetings is £271. 6s.

A very advantageous and central site has been obtained for the New Music Hall. It is on the North side of Long Acre, between Charles Street and Endell Street, and the houses are now being pulled down to clear the ground. The dimensions of the large room are proposed to be 120-ft. by 60-ft., besides suitable Class Rooms. The Architect for the Building is Mr. William Westmacott.

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

NOVELLO'S CHEAP CLASSICS.—This series of interesting works, which were noticed in an early number of the *Musical Times*, had not then proceeded beyond the Masses of Haydn and Mozart, which are now completed, and included in the first thirty-four numbers; many of them are published complete for the usual price of a fashionable song. The latter volumes in continuation, include an excellent adaptation to English words of Mozart's Requiem; Romberg's "Te Deum;" the Oratorio, "The Harmony of the Spheres;" Mendelssohn's fine Psalm (115th) "Not unto us, O Lord;" Beethoven's Mass in C; and Haydn's delightful work, "The Seasons"—spring, summer, autumn, and winter; each part forming a distinct and complete volume. The characteristic of these Cheap Classics is the great pains which have been taken, not only to produce them in a clear and beautiful type, but the press has been most carefully corrected, making them really *cheap* because *excellent*.

"JUDAS MACCABÆUS," BY HANDEL.—The Sacred Harmonic Society at Exeter Hall have given three successive performances of this noble work during the last month; shewing that its interest is undiminished, and that it is better understood now that it has stood the test of one hundred years from its first production. It is of the things which never can grow old.

BISHOPSGATE WARD SCHOOL-ROOM CLASSES.—A correspondent informs us that the Classes lately established in Peter-street for the practice of Sacred and Oratorio Music, are progressing in a highly satisfactory manner.

PURCELL COMMEMORATION.—The musical portion of the services at Westminster Abbey on the 25th June, was selected entirely from the works of Purcell, and the usual choir was assisted by many friends on the annual commemoration of our greatest British musician.